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Central Intelligence Agency

APPROVED FOR RELEASE ☐
DATE: 02-Apr-2009

Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA FILE: SSPOC
RECEIPT #: _____OCA 0184-92
23 JAN 1992

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Chairman
Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Director has asked me to respond to your letter of December 20, 1991 which requested information on former senior Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) personnel in Laos and Vietnam and on US citizens who had not returned from Laos from 1961 to the present as a result of assignments in or over Laos prior to 1975.

The full names of CIA Chiefs of Station
Vientiane from 1961

The Agency possesses two lists relating to US citizens who have not returned from Laos during the period 1961 to the present. The first is the DIA list of "US Unaccounted for in Southeast Asia." The second is a list compiled at CIA Headquarters on September 30, 1969 entitled, "American Air Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities (in) Laos, 1961 to Present." A copy of the second list is enclosed. That list showed two American civilians as missing in Laos: Air America employee, Eugene H. DeBruin, who is still listed as missing; and Bird & Son employee, Ernest Brace, who returned on March 28, 1973.

We have reviewed our files but have not located any lists received by the United States Government from foreign governments, contacts or individuals which relate to US individuals who have not returned from Laos. We will be reviewing a considerable volume of archived files in the coming week and will advise the Committee if any material on this subject is located.

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The Honorable John F. Kerry

In addition to the 1969 list of "American Air Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities (in) Laos, 1961 to Present" mentioned above, the following US citizens, all of whom were working for Air America, did not return from Laos:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Lost</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Type of Aircraft</u>
James H. Ackley	7 Mar 73	Laos	C-123
Eugene DeBruin	5 Sep 63	Laos	C-46
Clarence Driver	7 Mar 73	Laos	C-123
George Ritter	27 Dec 71	Laos	C-123
Roy Townley	27 Dec 71	Laos	C-123
Edward Weissenback	27 Dec 71	Laos	C-123

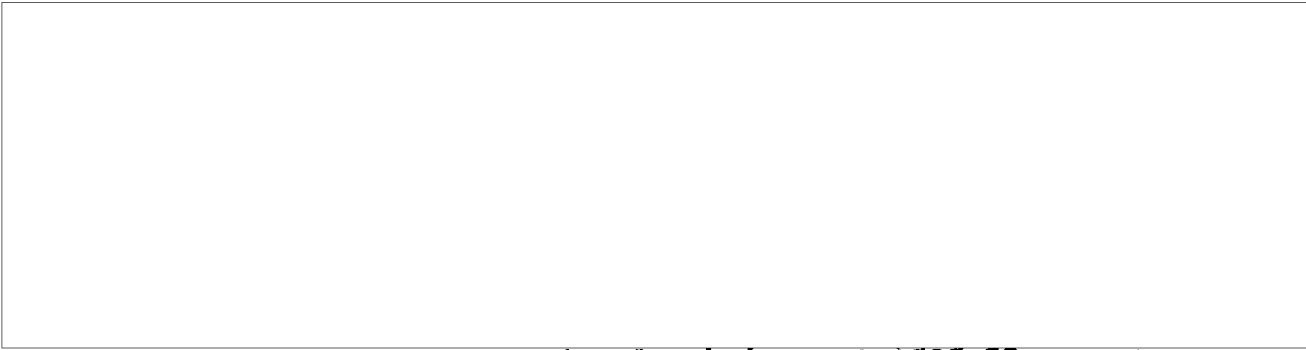
All six of these individuals also appear on the DIA listing of "US Unaccounted for in Southeast Asia." Of the above individuals, DIA lists DeBruin as a POW. Ackley, Driver, Ritter and Townley are listed as missing in action. There is a presumptive finding of death in Weissenback's case.

The other American civilians who remain missing in Laos had no affiliation with the Agency. They are Charles Duffy, who disappeared in 1961, and on whom there is a presumptive finding of death; Charles Dean, captured in 1974, whose gravesite has been identified in Laos; and Alan L. Blewett, lost while flying in a Navion aircraft in 1962, on whom there is also a presumptive finding of death.

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The Honorable Bob Smith



A copy of this letter is also being provided to
Chairman Kerry.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stanley M. Moskowitz

Stanley M. Moskowitz
Director of Congressional Affairs

Enclosures

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OCA 0184-92

SUBJECT: Letter to Senators Kerry/Smith re Laos and POW/MIA
Issue - Ltr of 20 Dec 91

[REDACTED] (22 Jan 92)

[REDACTED]

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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 0184-92/1

23 JAN 1992

The Honorable Bob Smith
Vice Chairman
Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Vice Chairman:

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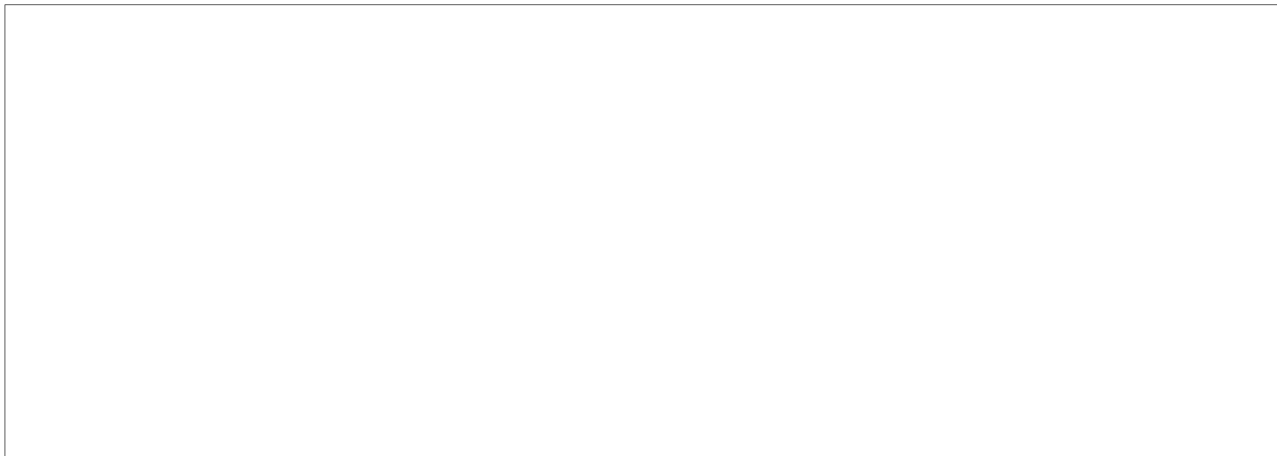
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The Honorable John F. Kerry



Sincerely,

/s/ Stanley M. Moskowitz

Stanley M. Moskowitz
Director of Congressional Affairs

Enclosures

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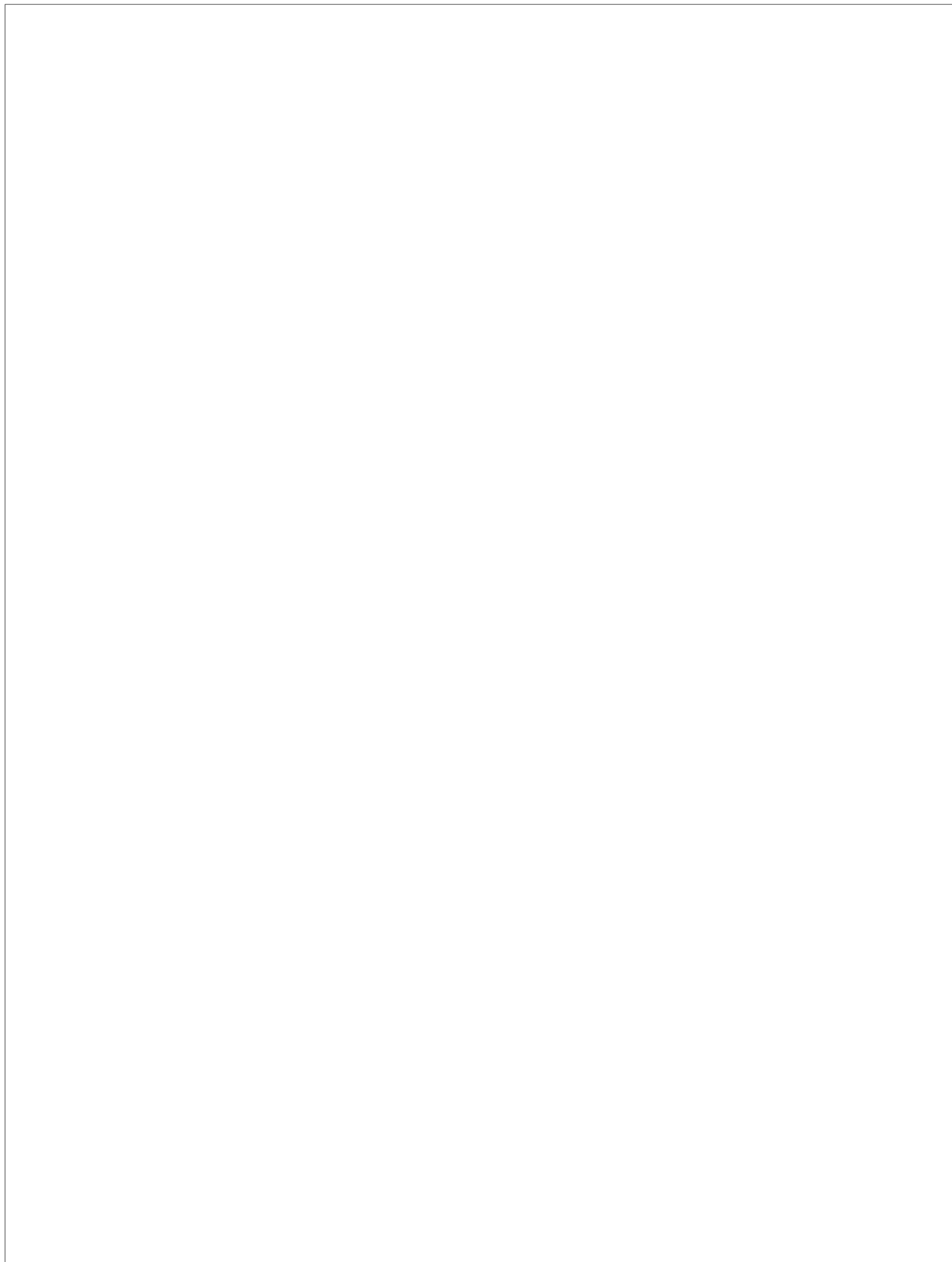
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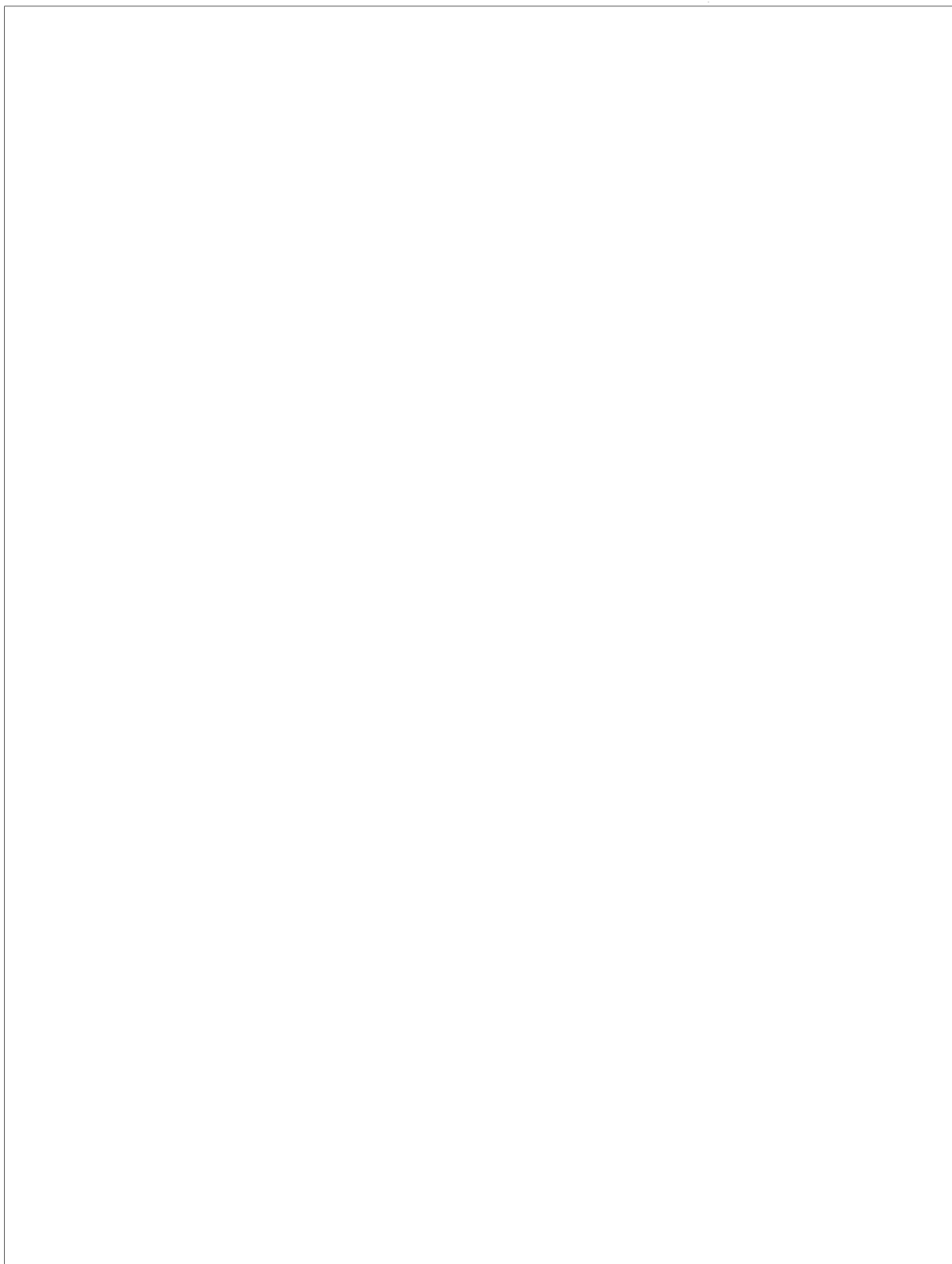
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30 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : American Air Contractor Operating Crew
Fatalities Laos, 1961 to Present

AIR AMERICA	42	1 captured
BIRD & SON'S	7	1 captured
CONTINENTAL	8	
	<hr/>	
TOTAL	57	

- (1) Breakdown by accident presently not available but can be furnished within 48 hours.
- (2) Bird & Son's totals probably correct but may be off by 1 or 2.

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1963 - Air Freight Specialist Debruin C-46 flight was
shot down and Debruin was captured.

Bird & Son's

21 May 1965 - Mr. Ernest Brace captured by enemy forces
in Northwestern Laos when he landed at airfield
which had been captured during the night by
enemy forces. Mr. Brace is believed to be a POW
in Hanoi area. ~~No other fatalities this~~
accident.

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>REASON</u>
1 October 1961	2 Americans	Phou Fa	P2V	Flight Accident
1962	1 American	Laos	CAMAIR	Flight Accident
1963	2 Americans	Laos (Phou Fa)	C-46	Flight Accident
1963	Jerry Easter	Laos	Porter	Flight Accident
25 Aug. 1965	Pat Doran	Ta Vieng	Helio	Flight Accident

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>REASON</u>
25 Nov 1960	Jon C. Malloy	Savannakhet	C 46	Flight Accident
3 Oct 1965	Frank MacCall	Luang Prabang	C 123	Flight Accident
17 July 1963	Gerald R. P. P. P.	Sayaboury	C 46	Flight Accident
Nov 1962	Fredrick Riley	PA	C 123	Ground Fire
24 Aug 1964	Albert Sandoval	Savannakhet	Helio-Courier	Flight Accident
17 July 1963	George A. Varney	Sayaboury	C 46	Flight Accident
19 May 1966	John Willot	Near Na Khang	H 34	Flight Accident - Possibly Ground Fire
30 May 1961	Walter F. Wimbowski	Pha Dong	H 34	Flight Accident
30 May 1961	Charles H. Mateer	Pha Dong	H 34	Flight Accident
13 Aug 1961	Norwood N. Forte	Pa Khao	C 46	Flight Accident
13 Aug 1961	Roger J. Sarno	Pa Khao	C 46	Flight Accident
4 Feb 1962	Herbert S. Strouss	PDJ	C 46	Ground Fire
4 Feb 1962	Howard F. Heinrich	PDJ	C 46	Ground Fire
6 April 1962	William H. Beale, Jr.	Xiang Dat	L 20	Flight Accident
6 April 1962	George R. Varney	Xiang Dat	L 20	Flight Accident
22 July 1962	Charles T.D. Diefenbach	Phou Bia	Helio	Ground Fire

FLIGHT MECHANICS

8 Aug 1967	Earl Bruce	XC 4205	H 34	Flight Accident
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FOR RICHARD, AMERICAN FATALITY

DATE	NAME	LOCATION	EQUIPMENT	REASON
19 May 1963	Cornald A. Booth	TG-0014	H-34	Flight Accident
19 May 1963	Joseph Cheney	Muong Phine	C 46	Battle Damage
19 May 1963	John Cooney	MC 4305	H-34	Flight Accident
19 May 1963	Ralph C. Davis	MC 4313	Porter	Flight Accident Possible Battle Damage
19 May 1963	Wayne Ersminger	Phon Nam	Helio	Flight Accident
19 May 1963	William J. Iraser	Hanoi Ma	Bell 205	Explosion/Possible Battle Damage
19 May 1963	Norman A. Grimmer	TG 0113	Bell 204B	Explosion
19 May 1963	William J. Gibbs	TH 1070	H-34	Ground Fire
19 May 1963	Donald C. Heritage	Phong	C-123	Ground Fire
19 May 1963	Charles Hewrick	Muong Phine	C 46	Battle Damage
19 May 1963	Emmons B. Potkins	Savannakhet	C 46	Flight Accident
19 May 1963	Charles Jones	TG 3003	H 34	Flight Accident
19 May 1963	Richard H. Lieberth	XC 0345	H 34	Explosion in fire

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>REASON</u>
29 May 1966	Gordon McFarland	Long Tien	Porter	Flight Accident
12 March 1967	Carl Stone	Savannakhet	DO-28	Flight Accident
6 April 1967	J. Preston Ruffaker	Northwest Laos	DO-28	Unknown
12 December 1967	Mike Lepai	Northwest Laos	Porter	Unknown
5 January 1969	Harter	Udon/Vientiane	Baron	Flight Accident
12 February 1969	Irwin	Northwest Laos	Porter	Unknown
15 August 1969	Carl Angel	Southern Laos	Porter	Flight Accident

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Patrick F. Mc Carthy

Houei Ma

Bell 205

Explosion/Possibly
Battle Damage

Dwight E. Pirillo

TH 3368

H 34

Battle Damage

Franklin Smith

XC 3345

H 34

Exploded in Flight

Glen R. Wood

TG 3118

Bell 204B

Explosion

PILOT SPECIALISTS

Gideon Nelson

Long Tieng

C 123

Fell to Death -
Out of CD Drop
A/C without
chute

Gideon Nelson

Sayaboury

C 46

Flight Accident

Aubrey Wooten

Sayaboury

C 46

Flight Accident

David W. Devan

Pa Khao

C 46

Flight Accident

Farrell A. Eubanks

Pa Khao

C 46

Flight Accident

John S. Lewis

Pa Khao

C 46

Flight Accident

EMPLOYEES WHO WERE PASSENGERS

Robert H. Crono

TJ 4014

Porter

Unknown

Lester Porter

Savannakhet

C 46

Flight Accident

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TO : D/OCA		CONTROL # OCA 0184-92	DATE OF REQUEST 23 Jan 92
FROM : DD/SA via DD/OCA		SUSPENSE DATE	
SUBJECT : Letter to Senators Kerry/Smith re POW/MIA - 20 Dec 91 incoming ltr			
NOTES			
COORDINATED WITH (list names as well as offices)			
NAME DDO		OFFICE	DATE
NAME		OFFICE	DATE
NAME		OFFICE	DATE
NAME		OFFICE	DATE
ACTION REQUIRED BY D/OCA			
For your signature			

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POW/MIA Affairs

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JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS,
Chairman
THOMAS A. DASCHLE, SOUTH DAKOTA
HARRY REID, NEVADA
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ALAN C. FYAK, DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR
J. WILLIAM CODINHA, GENERAL COUNSEL

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6500
December 20, 1991

Rec'd. in ER
@ 1630
on 20 Dec 91

Mr. Robert Gates
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Bob:

We are writing to request information from the Central Intelligence Agency pertaining to Laos and the POW/MIA issue. This information is essential for the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs to carry out its responsibilities under Senate Resolution 82 and Senate Resolution 185.

Specifically, we request the following items:

1. Please provide to the committee full names and current last known residential and business addresses for Central Intelligence Agency Chiefs of Station, Deputy Chiefs of Station, and any other personnel with responsibilities for POW/MIA matters assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane, Laos, and the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, for each year between the period of 1961 to present.
2. Please provide to the committee any lists compiled or received by the Central Intelligence Agency which relate to U.S. citizens who have not returned from Laos during the period of 1961 to present as a result of assignments in or over Laos prior to 1975.
3. Please provide to the committee any lists in the possession of the Central Intelligence Agency which have been received by the United States Government from foreign governments or contacts, or individuals which relate to U.S. personnel who have not returned from Laos.
4. Please provide the names of U.S. citizens who were assigned to Air America, Continental Air Services, or any other CIA proprietary organization and have not returned from Laos.
5. Please provide the full names and last known residential and business addresses for personnel assigned to

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Mr. Robert Gates
December 20, 1991
page 2

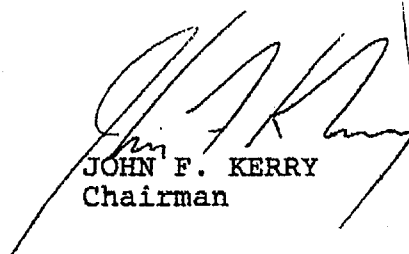
the security office of Air America in Vientiane Airport during the period of Air America's existence.

Your cooperation in providing this information to the select committee prior to January 20, 1992 will be most appreciated.


If any of these items contain classified information, please provide such material directly to the Office of Senate Security, S.407, U.S. Capitol.

Should you have any questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Dino Carluccio on the committee staff at (202) 224-2306.

Sincerely,



JOHN F. KERRY
Chairman



BOB SMITH
Vice Chairman

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DD/ISA

OCA
Action Plan for
Congressional Correspondence
to the DCI

23 DEC 1991

Date

DCI:

A response will be prepared
for your signature with
input from _____.

☐

OCA will respond in consultation
with DD.

☒

2 letters attached

No written response is necessary.

☐

CONCUR

☐

I prefer

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IMMEDIATE

Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Secretariat

20 Dec '91

DOCA:

Stan-

Gen. Kerry's staff just
faxed the att'd. two letters
(simultaneous w/ mailing the
orig.). Response requested
by Do Jan.

Do you want me to process
these now as if they are
the originals?

Please advise. Y

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DD/O 0025/015-92

14 January 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[redacted]
Chief, Senate Liaison Division
Office of Congressional Affairs

VIA: Office of the Deputy Director for Operations

FROM:

[redacted]

SUBJECT: CIA Information Pertaining to Station
Personnel in Laos and Vietnam, U.S. Personnel
who did not return from Laos; and Air American
Security OfficersREFERENCE: Letter of 20 December 1991 from Senators Kerry
and Smith of the Select Committee on POW/MIA
Affairs to the DCI

1. This is in reply to the letter of 20 December 1991 which requested information on former senior Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) personnel in Laos and Vietnam and on U.S. citizens who had not returned from Laos from 1961 to the present as a result of assignments in or over Laos prior to 1975.

2. The full names for CIA Chiefs of Station [redacted] and [redacted] are attached. The addresses of retired officers are provided and we will facilitate the Committee's contact with Agency officers who are still on active duty.

3. The Agency possesses two lists relating to U.S. citizens who have not returned from Laos during the period 1961 to the present. The first is the DIA list of "U.S. Unaccounted for in Southeast Asia". The second is a list compiled at CIA Headquarters on 30 September 1969 entitled, "American Air Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities (in) Laos, 1961 to Present". A copy of the second list is attached. That list

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showed two American civilians as missing in Laos: Air America employee Eugene H. DeBruin, who is still listed as missing; and Bird & Son employee Ernest Brace, who returned on 28 March 1973.

4. We have reviewed our files but have not located any lists received by the United States Government from foreign governments, contacts or individuals which relate to U.S. individuals who have not returned from Laos. We will be reviewing a considerable volume of archived files in the coming week and will advise the committee if any material on this subject is located. *spelling*

5. In addition to the 1969 list of "American Air Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities (in) Laos, 1961 to Present" mentioned above, the following U.S. citizens, all of whom were working for Air America, did not return from Laos:

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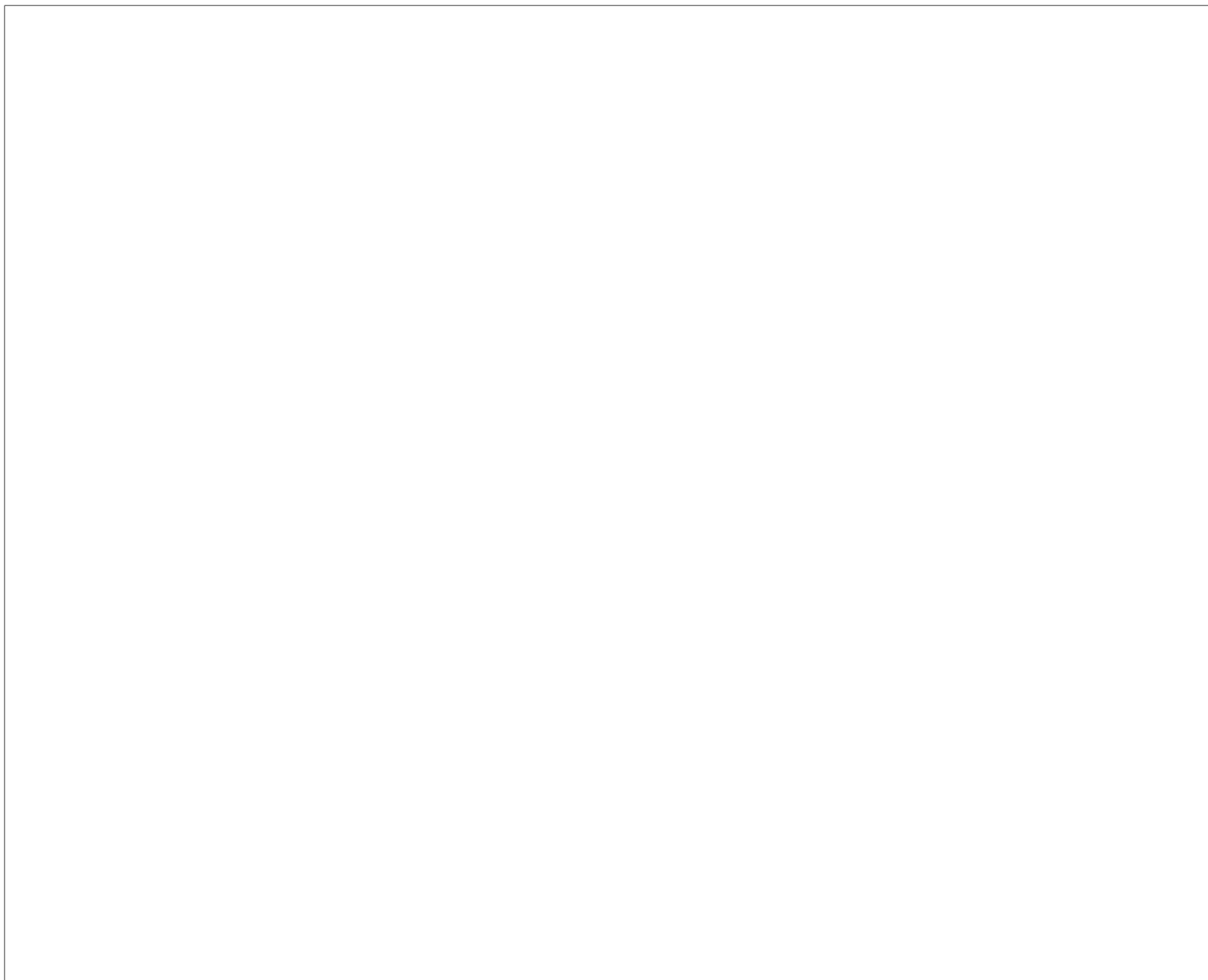
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Attachment: "American Air Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities
Laos, 1961 to (1969)"

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